

Dear Surface Transportation Board,

I would like to invite you to visit this area as soon as possible. Our area is being considered for the Great Lakes Basin Transportation's rail line.

In my 55 years of memory, I do not recall a year when in July we still had standing water from rains that began in June. Farmers are unable to complete their crop tasks because there are so many "ponds" in their normally well-drained crop acres. Never before have I seen so much field debris across roads.

At this time, with the water table so high, even a small rain amount increases the size of the ponds or creates new ones.

If you approve this rail line- it could only complicate and increase the challenge of storm water flow. New flooding patterns could be created as Mr. Patton seeks to create a one percent grade. His cutting across flood plains, waterways and changing the topography could be a nightmare, especially during the construction phase as destroyed drainage methods are not restored. It will takes years to identify all the new drainage and flooding problems. In Boone County, we are still repairing drainage damage from a pipeline put in years ago which had only minor topographical changes. The proposed rail could drastically change the topography!

The proposed rail line could act as a dam for many of the present water paths. So that not only could farmers, homeowners, township and county roads experience new flooding patterns, but likely the proposed rail line could also be damaged.

Please let me know if you would like a tour of northern Winnebago, Boone or southern Rock counties as I can arrange a flood damage field trip for you.

Julie Newhouse
Capron, IL